



Executive Summary Board of Education Meeting

DATE: May 7, 2026

TOPIC: Renaissance Communication System Installation of District Updated Panic Alarm System

PREPARED BY: Jordan Stephen

Recommended for:

- Action
- Discussion
- Information

Purpose/Background:

In our commitment to district-wide safety, the technology team recently conducted an audit of the alarm system at Lincoln Hall. Over the past year, the District has moved away from specific vendors to reduce expenses within our budget. During this process, we noted a recurring bill for our alarm system that seemed out of place. As the team investigated, we uncovered a redundancy that we are working to resolve.

Currently, all District buildings utilize the Keltron radio systems to dispatch fire and burglar and panic button signals directly to the Lincolnwood Police Department through a partnership with Chicago Metro Fire Protection. Lincoln Hall, however, presented a unique situation. During its remodeling, unlike Todd or Rutledge Hall, Lincoln Hall was equipped with a redundant third-party monitoring service specifically for physical panic buttons.

When the technology and maintenance teams attempted to consolidate this to match the other buildings, we discovered that the installed hardware was incompatible with Chicago Metro Fire's ecosystem. To rectify this, the District will need to replace specific components to ensure operational consistency and improve our fiscal footprint.

During our investigation, the District found quite a few benefits in terms of what a modernized system could yield. The District will install a modernized Bosch alarm panel to replace all legacy panic buttons. This integrated solution will use the same Keltron radio system to direct signals to the local police like our other facilities. The Bosch platform is fully expandable, allowing the District to add features or sensors as our security needs evolve. Furthermore, new

software advancements allow for instant, automated notifications tailored to building needs. Finally, the system includes a cellular backup for redundant communications, costing approximately \$5 per month.

Overall, this system will achieve our goal of eliminating the \$580 quarterly cost for third-party monitoring while ensuring future expandability and providing instant communication to our internal teams.

This project would be installed and managed by Renaissance Communication Systems and would include all components necessary to integrate seamlessly with the District's security system as well as the integration with the District's current Keltron Radio systems.

Fiscal Impact:

\$18,570 for all materials, equipment, installation, re-termination and testing of all equipment and components related to the Bosch platform, in all District buildings.

Recommendation:

The Facilities Committee concurs with the Administration's recommendation to the Board of Education to approve the quote from Renaissance Communication Systems for the installation of an updated Bosch Panic and Alarm System in all buildings at Lincolnwood School District 74 in the amount of \$18,570.